



Strategic Plan Priority | System Design

Goal: School and district structures and systems adapt to meet the evolving needs of the student population and community as a whole. Students are prepared to adapt as needed to fully participate in the world beyond the classroom.

Temporary Waiver from 24-Credit Graduation Requirements for Green River College

PREPARED FOR THE MARCH 2020 BOARD MEETING

Information and Action

Green River College requested waiver from 24-credit graduation requirements of WAC 180-51-068 for the Class of 2019 and 2020. The Board will consider approval.

Materials included in packet:

- Application and resolution for waiver from Green River College

Synopsis:

Green River College has requested a temporary waiver from WAC 180-51-068 for the Class of 2019 and 2020. In its application to the Board, Green River College describes that it is seeking the waiver to align to feeder districts that have the temporary waiver. This rationale is described in an addendum to the application. The addendum notes that the impediments listed in the original application have been resolved. The college now can fulfill the course taking and advising to satisfy 24-credit graduation requirements.

The college provided the necessary application materials and resolution.

Business Items:

- Approval of Temporary Waiver from WAC 180-51-068 for Green River College for the Class of 2019 and 2020



THE WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

An education system where students are engaged in personalized education pathways that prepare them for civic engagement, careers, postsecondary education, and lifelong learning

APPLICATION Temporary Waiver from High School Graduation Requirements Under Chapter 217, Laws of 2014

Instructions

RCW 28A.230.090(1)(d)(ii) authorizes school districts, private schools, and community colleges to apply to the State Board of Education (SBE) for a temporary waiver from the career and college ready graduation requirements directed by Chapter 217, Laws of 2014 (E2SSB 6552) beginning with the graduating class of 2020 or 2021 instead of the graduating class of 2019. This law further provides:

"In the application, a school district must describe why the waiver is being requested, the specific impediments preventing timely implementation, and efforts that will be taken to achieve implementation with the graduating class proposed under the waiver. The state board of education shall grant a waiver under this subsection (1)(d) to an applying school district at the next subsequent meeting of the board after receiving an application."

The SBE has adopted rules to implement this provision as WAC 180-51-068(11). The rules provide that the SBE must post an application form on its public web site for use by school districts. The rules further provide:

- The application must be accompanied by a resolution adopted by the district's board of directors requesting the waiver. The resolution must, at a minimum:
 1. State the entering freshman class or classes for whom the waiver is requested;
 2. Be signed by the chair or president of the board of directors and the superintendent.
- A district implementing a waiver granted by the SBE under this law will continue to be subject to the prior high school graduation requirements as specified in WAC 180-51-067 during the school year or years for which the waiver has been granted.
- A district granted a waiver under this law that elects to implement the career and college ready graduation requirements in WAC 180-51-068 during the period for which the waiver is granted shall provide notification of that decision to the SBE.

Please send the application and school board resolution electronically to:

Parker Teed
Policy Analyst
360-725-6047
parker.teed@k12.wa.us

For questions, please contact:

Parker Teed
Policy Analyst
360-725-6047
parker.teed@k12.wa.us

Application

Please complete in full. Please identify any attachments provided by reference to the numbered items below.

1. Name of district: Green River College

2. Contact information

Name and title: Dr. Rolita Ezeonu, Vice President of Instruction

Telephone: 253-833-9111

E-mail address: rezeonu@greenriver.edu

3. Date of application: 1/16/2020

4. Please explain why the district is requesting a waiver to delay implementation of career and college ready graduation requirements in WAC 180-51-068.

While the framework for the additional 2019 graduation requirements has been developed, we have discovered some advising, process and system issues that need to be resolved to accommodate Personalized Pathways, world language requirements, and credit waivers for extenuating circumstances. Because of these issues, students have been caught in the transition without clear direction on how to meet, or demonstrate completion of the 2019/2020 graduation requirements, and their high school diplomas are currently being delayed while these issues are being resolved.

5. Please describe the specific impediments preventing implementation of the career and college ready graduation requirements beginning with the graduating class of 2019.

We serve a wide range of students including Youth Reengagement, High School 21+, and International Programs. Our students vary in age from 16 to adulthood and as such, bring differing life experiences and educational backgrounds.

In implementing these new requirements, we must:

- 1) Refine our process for determining proper course substitutions for Personalized Pathways. The method we initially developed has led to questions of proper evaluation by faculty and our Enrollment Services Department as well as upholding equity among our students. Our advising staff must then be trained on the appropriate use of Personal Pathways.
- 2) Define world languages and decide how to best evaluate students with transcripts from non-English speaking countries as well as refugees who are fluent in an another language but cannot access school transcripts from their home countries. We do not have access to the language tests that many high schools use for assessment of world languages and must find a way to provide our students with a similar opportunity.
- 3) Reach consensus on when and how to offer credit waivers to students who may face extenuating life circumstances.

6. Please indicate below the graduating class for which the district will first implement the career and college ready graduation requirements.

☐ Class of 2020

☒ Class of 2021

7. Please describe the efforts that will be undertaken to achieve implementation of the career and college ready graduation requirements for the graduating class indicated above.

We have formed a High School Completion Committee composed of administration, faculty, advisors, and transcript evaluators. Together, we created the course offering listing, processes and forms required for the 2019/2020 high school graduation requirements. We are now meeting regularly to determine how to improve these processes to best serve all high school in college students that we serve. We are doing this by examining individual student diploma applications and evaluating where our current processes need revision. We are collaborating across departments and student services to understand how all populations we serve will be affected by our administration of these requirements to ensure fairness and equity.

Final step

Please attach the district resolution required by WAC 180-51-068, signed and dated by the chair or president of the board of directors and the district superintendent.



President's Office
12401 SE 320th St.
Auburn, WA 98092-3622
(253) 288-3340
FAX (253) 288-3470
greenriver.edu

January 16, 2020

It was moved by Trustee Pierini, seconded by Trustee Chu, that the Board of Trustees of College District No. 10 approve the request for a temporary waiver from High School Graduation requirements for students in graduation cohorts 2019 and 2020. So moved.

Jackie Boschok

Board Chair



President's Office
12401 SE 320th St.
Auburn, WA 98092-3622
(253) 288-3340
FAX (253) 288-3470
greenriver.edu

January 21, 2020

In support of the Board of Trustees motion that occurred on January 16, 2020, please move forward with their request for a temporary waiver from High School Graduation requirements for students in graduation cohorts 2019 and 2020.

Thank you,

Suzanne Johnson
President
Green River College



MAIN CAMPUS

Memorandum

To: Parker Teed, State Board of Education

From: Catherine Cantrell, Dean of Instruction, Green River College

Cc: Dr. Rolita Ezeonu, Vice President of Instruction, GRC; Dr. Deborah Casey, Vice President of Student Affairs, GRC; and David Larsen, Dean of Enrollment and Completion, GRC

Re: Addendum for the Application for Temporary Waiver from High School Graduation Requirements Under Chapter 217, Laws of 2014 (RCW 28A.230.090(1)(d)(ii))

Addendum:

Green River College has courses available that fully meet the 2019 and 2020 graduation requirements. We have developed high school level courses based on OSPI curriculum standards that fulfill all credit requirements for the 24-credit high school diploma. These requirements are published in our college catalog, which can be viewed on-line at <https://catalog.greenriver.edu/>.

Our advising staff members are advising under the new diploma requirements and in Personal Pathways, and we have no outstanding issues with implementation.

We are requesting the waiver in order to be aligned with our neighboring school districts. Green River College partners with the K12 districts of Auburn, Kent, and Tahoma. We provide instruction to the student population of these districts. Our program is aligned to state graduation standards and in order to serve the students of our district partners, we are requesting the waiver in order to keep our program aligned with our service district partners that have been granted the waiver.

MAIN AUBURN CAMPUS

12401 SE 320TH STREET
AUBURN, WA 98092
253-833-9111
253-288-3359 TDD

AUBURN CENTER

1221 D STREET NE
AUBURN, WA 98002
253-288-3455

ENUMCLAW CAMPUS

1414 GRIFFIN AVENUE
ENUMCLAW, WA 98022
253-288-3400
253-288-3485 FAX

KENT CAMPUS

417 RAMSAY WAY, SUITE 112
KENT, WA 98032
253-856-9595